

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 IGA-02 OMB-01

PRS-01 DRC-01 AF-10 /106 W
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R 161041Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2895
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 549

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PK, FR
SUBJ: RUMORED FRENCH ARMS DEAL WITH PAKISTAN

REF: KABUL 253

1. HARD INFORMATION ON RUMORED ARMS DEAL UNDER WHICH FRENCH
WOULD UNDERTAKE BUILD MIRAGES IN PAKISTAN IS DIFFICULT TO
COME BY, SINCE NEITHER PAKS NOR LOCAL FRENCH REPS ARE WILLING
TO TALK ABOUT IT. THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW STRAWS IN THE WIND
BUT SO FAR THEY HAVE NOT ADDED UP TO MUCH.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN IN JANUARY 12 PRESS BRIEFING
CHARACTERIZED FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS OF ARMSDEAL AS "SPECU-
LATIVE AND TENDENTIOUS". HE COMPLAINED THAT POWER IMBALANCE
IN SUBCONTINENT HAD FURTHER DETERIORATED AS RESULT RECORD
INDIAN MILITARY BUDGET, SOVIET DELIVERIES OF SOPHISTICATED
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WEAPONS TO INDIA, AND ARMS DEALS RECENTLY CONCLUDED BY

INDIANS WITH BOTH US AND FRANCE. WHILE PAKS LACKED DOMESTIC CAPACITY TO PRODUCE SOPHISTICATED ARMS AND HAD TO RELY ON IMPORTS FOR THEIR ESSENTIAL DEFENSE NEEDS, HE ASSERTED, EVERY PAK EFFORT TO PROCURE MILITARY EQUIPMENT OVERSEAS RESULTED IN GREAT HUE AND CRY FROM INDIA OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO INTIMIDATE POTENTIAL FOREIGN SUPPLIERS AND KEEP PAKISTAN MILITARILY WEAK. DURABLE PEACE IN SUBCONTINENT COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED IF INDIA CONTINUED ARM ITSELF WHILE PREVENTING PAKISTAN FROM FILLING ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS.

4. WITH REGARD SPECIFIC REPORTS THAT PAKISTAN WOULD PRODUCE FRENCH MIRAGE AIRCRAFT TO SUPPLY CERTAIN ARAB STATES, SPOKESMAN SAID PAKISTAN UNDERSTOOD DESIRE OF THESE ARAB STATES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SECURITY AND WAS WILLING TO HELP MEET THEIR ARMS REQUIREMENTS WITHIN ITS LIMITED PRODUCTION CAPABILITY.

5. COMMENT: NOTABLE THAT WHILE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CASTIGATED FOREIGN (READ INDIAN) PRESS REPORTS OF PAK-FRENCH ARMS DEAL, HE AVOIDED SPECIFIC DENIAL THAT SUCH DEAL WAS IN OFFING.

BYROADE

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Message Attributes

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